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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on
Universal Service (FCC 96-93) CC Docket No. 96-45

COMMENTS OF

Jeff Beatty
Executive Director
Telecomm Access Association

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List ABCDE



TELECOMM **ACCESS**



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April 12, 1996

Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

This is a special day for our deaf son, Kane Beatty. I brought him with me to drop off this letter at the FCC building. He is four year old and is seventh of a generation of deaf on my wife's side. Can you image that is about the same time Alexander Graham Bell invented telephone. 120 years later, our son still isn't fully accessible, even today. Hopefully, this letter will help in getting our son fully accessible soon. This has lead me into establishing our new nonprofit organization "Telecomm Access Association" last February 8, 1996. That is the day the "Telecommunication Act" signed by President Clinton, become law. My concern lies with Kane's future. I would like to see him one day be able to have access to payphones, cellular phones, etc.

To assure this technology is accessible, I suggest a standard phone jack be installed nationwide at every public phone and institution where applicable. This would allow the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and speech diabled access to use their tty's or laptops or pen-note computer with appropriate software installed.

I hope, we will meet in person one day soon.

As paraphrased from the Benton Foundation:

The Telecomm Access Association offers the following comments on the upcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the light of the commitment to Universal Service included in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Telecom Access Association hopes Commission acts to involve in this rulemaking process the perspectives of those who should benefit most from a policy on Universal Service - deaf and hearing impaired. Telecomm Access Association suggests that the Commission direct a number of questions to the organizations that serves these constituencies not as a consumers or statistics, but as people at-risk of falling off the networks that connect the nation and thereby widen the breath of viewpoints including included in defining the public interest, convience and necessity. The question nonprofits, public interest advocates can best address including:

- * How is the value of a network- any network, phone or computer - diminished as fewer and fewer people have access to it? What can be done to identify the communities and individuals most at risk of falling off the networks that will make up the National Information Infrastructure? What strategies can be employed to add people to the networks and keep them on? How can the voices of the people who have fallen off the network be including in the rulemaking?
- * What telecommunications services should be "Universal" in the information age? What flexibility should people have in picking the services they need? How might Universal Service be defined so that recipients of the services do not have to pay to protect certain rights (i.e., privacy) What good is a wire without the connection to the hardware, training, and support that are essential for effective use?
- * What role can nonprofit organizations and other community-based institutions play in delivery access to basic and advanced services? How could centralized delivery centers reduce the cost of providing basic and advanced services in both urban and rural areas? What role could existing nonprofits - schools, libraries, community centers etc - play in managing these new telecommunication centers? Also, in more complex technological environment with numerous carriers, providing universal access may not be enough to facilitate widespread use of telecommunications. The public may need ongoing consumer education so that individuals and organizations are aware of the options available to them, are able to make informed decisions about these options understand the pricing of the services, and know how to get assistance if they have difficulties with service reliability, bills, privacy, and other problems. How might nonprofit organizations provide these services as well?

Please keep in your mind with this questions above and now look over what Telecomm Access Association would like to show you on the other side of perspective. You may not realized that majority of us are overlook on one small part is call "dataport" or "phone plug". There is several examples that you can look at it.

Look back at the time when people say at those period of time:

Radio has no future. Heaver-than-air machines are impossible.
X-rays will prove to be a hoax.

William Thomas, Lord Kelvin,
English Scientist (1824-1907)

Space Travel is utter bilge.

Sir Richard van der Riet Wooley,
The Astronomer Royal (1956)

Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?

Harry M. Warner
Founder of Warner Bros. Studio (1927)

Rail travel at high speed is not possible because passengers,
unnable to breathe, would die from asphyxia.

Dionysius Lardner
English Scientist (1793-1859)

While theoretically and technically television
may be feasible, commercially and financially
I consider it an impossibility...

Lee DeForest
American Inventor (1873-1961)

I would like to share with my personal experience and my quote:

"When they say 99 percent impossible...We look at 1 percent
possible. We have to find and make 1 percent to become
99 percent possible"

Jeff Beatty

That is how I see and bring dataport access to become
99 percent possible.

The Data Highway



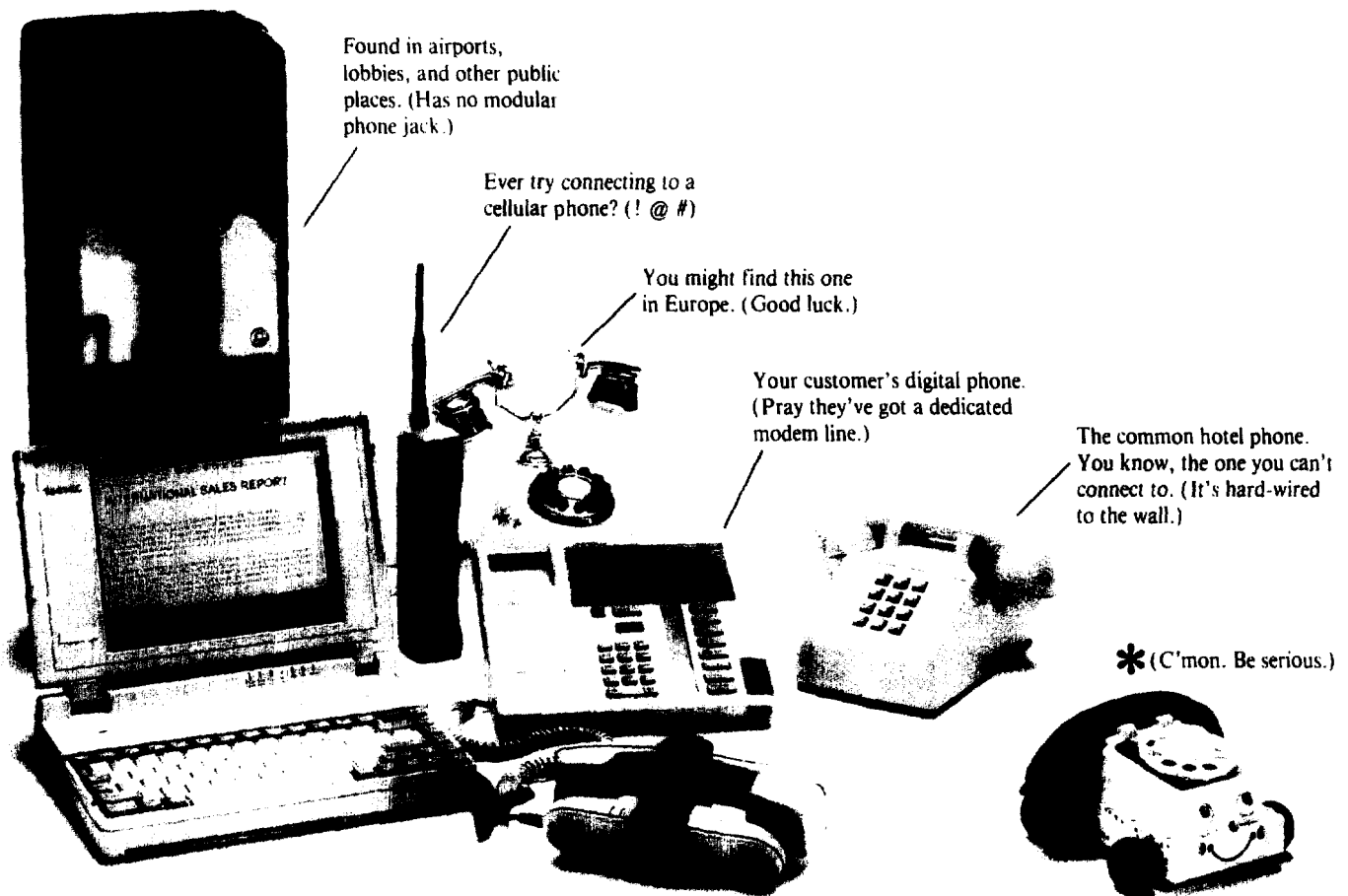
For Whom?

PLUGGED IN!

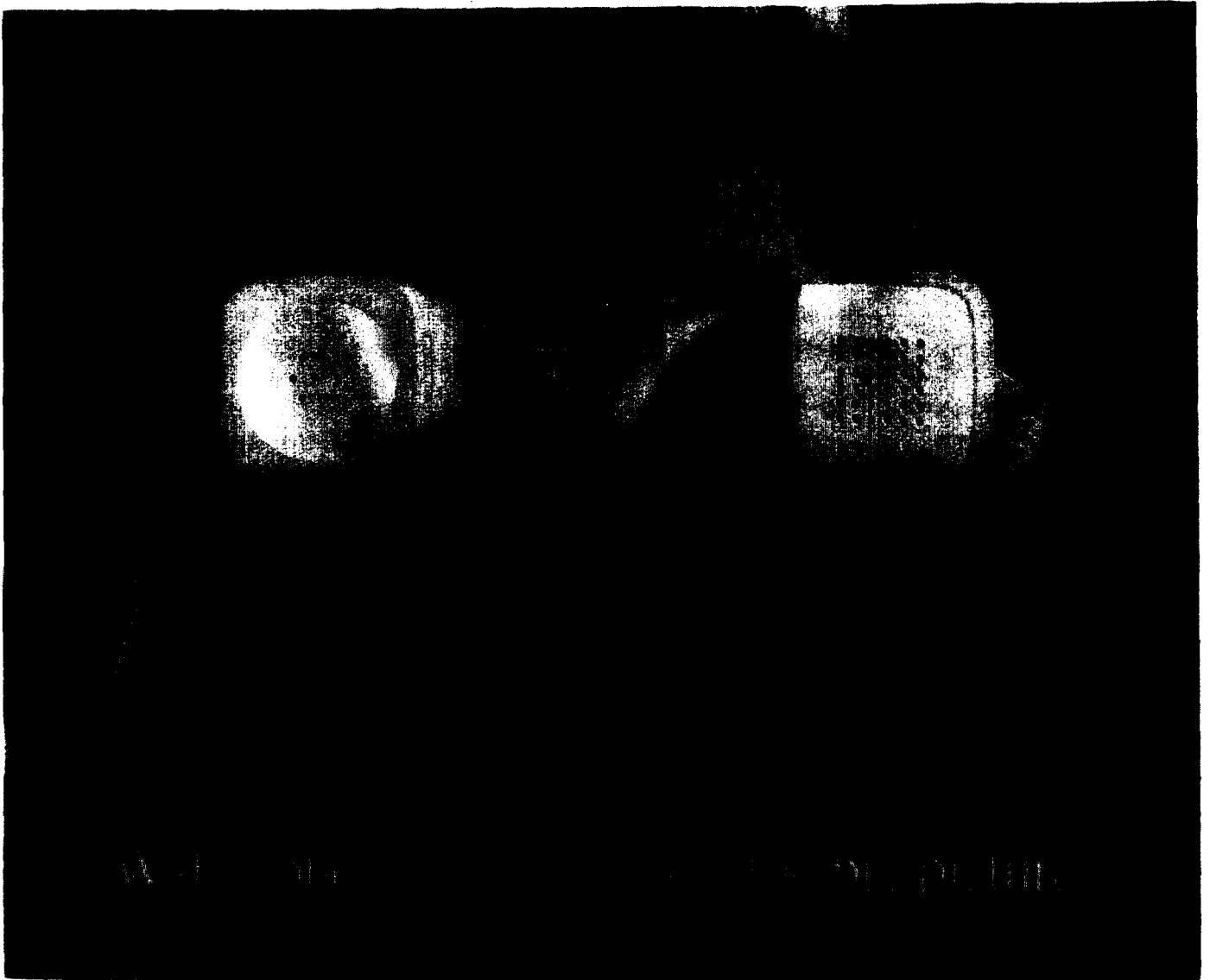


But Which one?

If you think connecting a portable computer to any* telephone is easy...



...you're right!

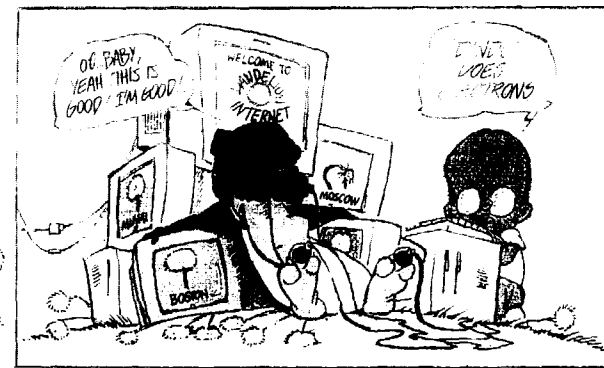
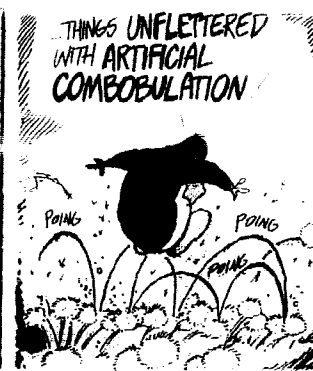
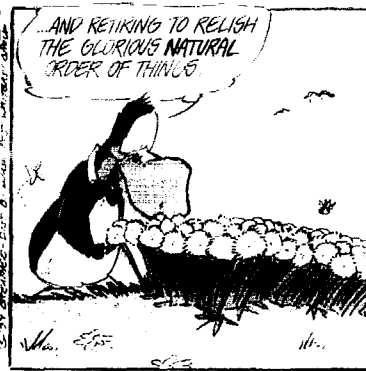
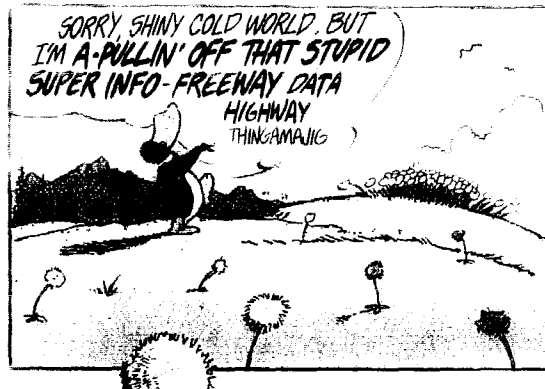


**But,
With a RJ-11, you can
see the big picture!**



OUTLAND

By Berkeley Breathed





Brief Background on Phone Plug

Summer of 1989, I drove my car along Baltimore Washington Parkway to pick my friend up at Baltimore Washington International Airport. As soon as I noticed a sign "Pull off for Payphone" I pulled my car in and stop at payphone. I reached handset from my driverseat! Neat! but I look at my laptop computer and piece of phone line. As soon I pick phone jack and pretend to plug in payphone. It felt me so hard and never thought of it before. I realized that phone jack is our solution for universal access. With this vision, the Age of Technology can grow quickly and easily left deaf and hearing impaired out of it. I'm not really keen of Payphone TTY due to Age of Technology. Payphone TTY can be left there with no concern for next ten to twenty years.

One day, I hope that I can see that it is for anyone can use it but not just for only for deaf and hearing impaired. Let you know that I have been going research on phone jack for almost seven years. I felt that 1996 is a good year to start with "Titaport built-in" for all indoor/outdoor payphone, cellular phone, PCS phone and business phone. It will guard and prevent from "Have and Have not" society.







PLUG IN



Current 1996:

- * Phone Jack is not for deaf but for anyone can use it with notebook computer, PDA, portable fax and many more..
- * Phone Jack can be built-in as as indoor/outdoor payphone, Airfone, Trainfone, Busfone, Taxifone, Cellular phone, PCS phone and Business phone. Hopefully to see one day that I can use RJ-11 phone jack to plug in those things.
- * Phone Plug was introduced and establish by FCC Commissioners in 1977 and 1979.
- * Phone Jack have major impact on modem manufactures and led us to become World Wide Web and E-Mail user. Without phone jack, we would never have "Information Highway" today!
- * Phone Jack give a greater flexiability for Universal Access.
- * In Japan, there are new ISDN payphone with dataport built-it near train stations and in hotel lobbies and and business buildings. These ISDN phones have dual connection (voice plus modem) and the modem line had digital and analog options. The jacks are standard U.S. sizes. Hope to see these modem-ready features on pay phones in the United States.

From Mobile Office Magazine
Feburary 1996 pg 10

by Kenji Ushimaru
via CompuServe

* Recently, and finally, Southern New England Telephone Co.(SNET) has install the first dataports ever on outdoor pay telephones. The specially-equipped phones allow a customer to transmit information from a computer over the phone at the same cost as a voice telephone call. Similar to technology familiar at airports, dataports on these drive-up phones at 40 Brainard Road in Hartford allow motorist to sent information from laptop or handheld computer without ever leaving their automobiles.

Interesting,the dataports on Brainard Road are being use by workers who spend most of their time on the road transmitting data to and from their headquarters' office. The dataports fill a gap for those who lack cellular phones,but even cellular users are using the dataports to supplement their communications needs.

Middlesex Magazine & Business Review (MSEX)
Vol: 2 Iss: 9 Dec 1995 Sec:1 pg 70

* I have notice that they have mix up using the meaning of "Universal Service" and "Universal Access." I have no problem using "Universal Service"

"Universal Service" mean what kind of line do telephone, cellular amd cable provide.(ie. caller id, POTS, ISDN, ATM, Videophone etc.)

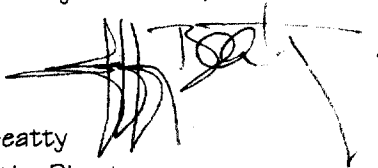
"Universal Access" mean define physical access on telephone, cellular, cable's line.

* Final wish to see that "Universal Access Standard" Committee to ensure and establish timeline to tranfer from current phone jack to the future univeral jack. safeguard from falling out and preventing from dataport access... It is possible to plug my notebook computer with videocamera/phone built in and able to see and sign to my deaf son in one day!

There are alot more example to show but I hold it for now.

The provision of Universal Service is more than an agreement between industry and government. Universal Services is the guarantee that all Americans can gain access to the information networks that connect the nation. The Telecomm Access Association hopes that the Commission will include the above questions and invite the contributions of the nonprofit organization in this historic opportunity to define Universal Service with "Univeral Access Standard" committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Beatty", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Beatty
Executive Director,
Telecomm Access Association

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